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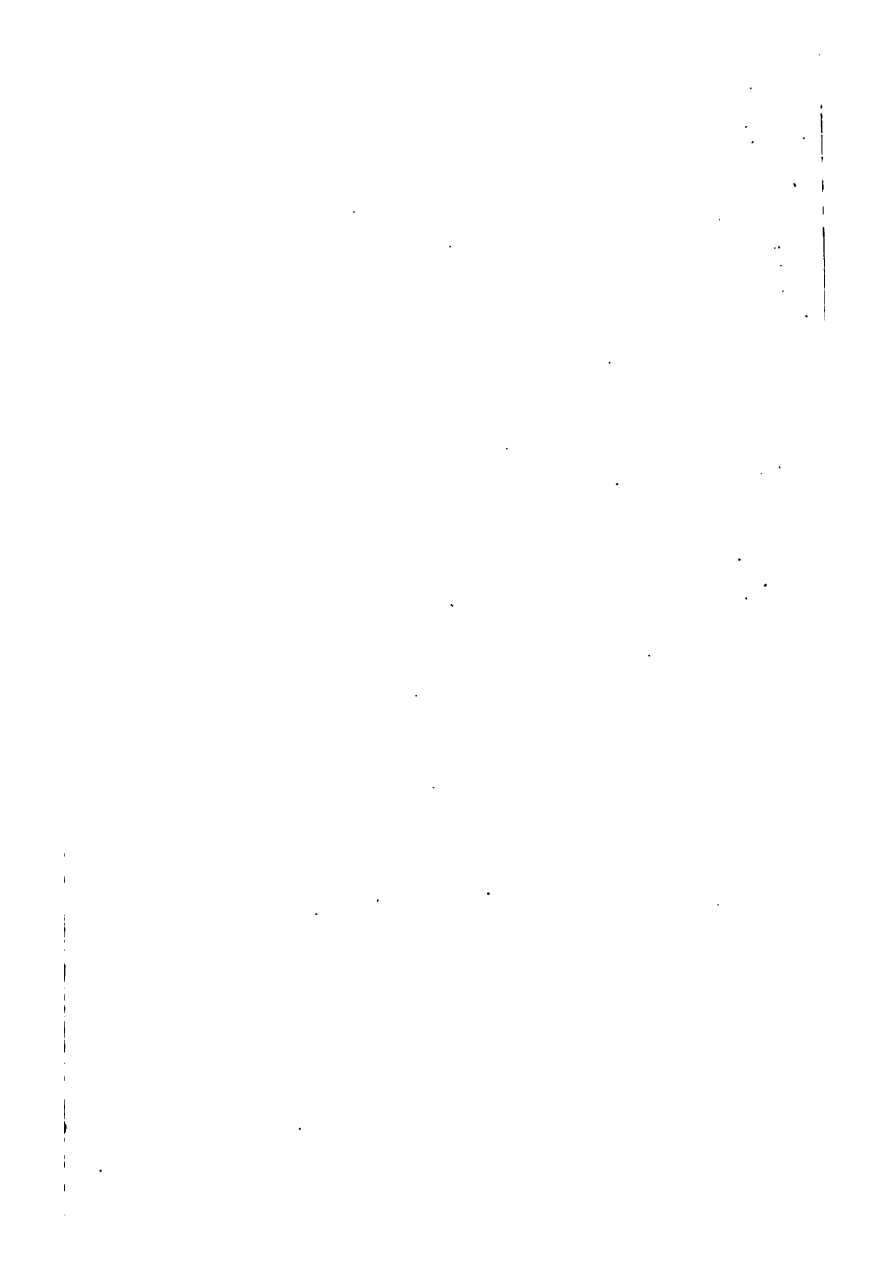
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MORS SOCRATIS.

32

CARMEN LATINUM

CANCELLARII PRÆMIO DONATUM

ET

IN THEATRO SHELDONIANO RECITATUM.

M DCCC LVI.

AUCTORE EDVARDO C. WICKHAM,

COLL. NOV. SOC.

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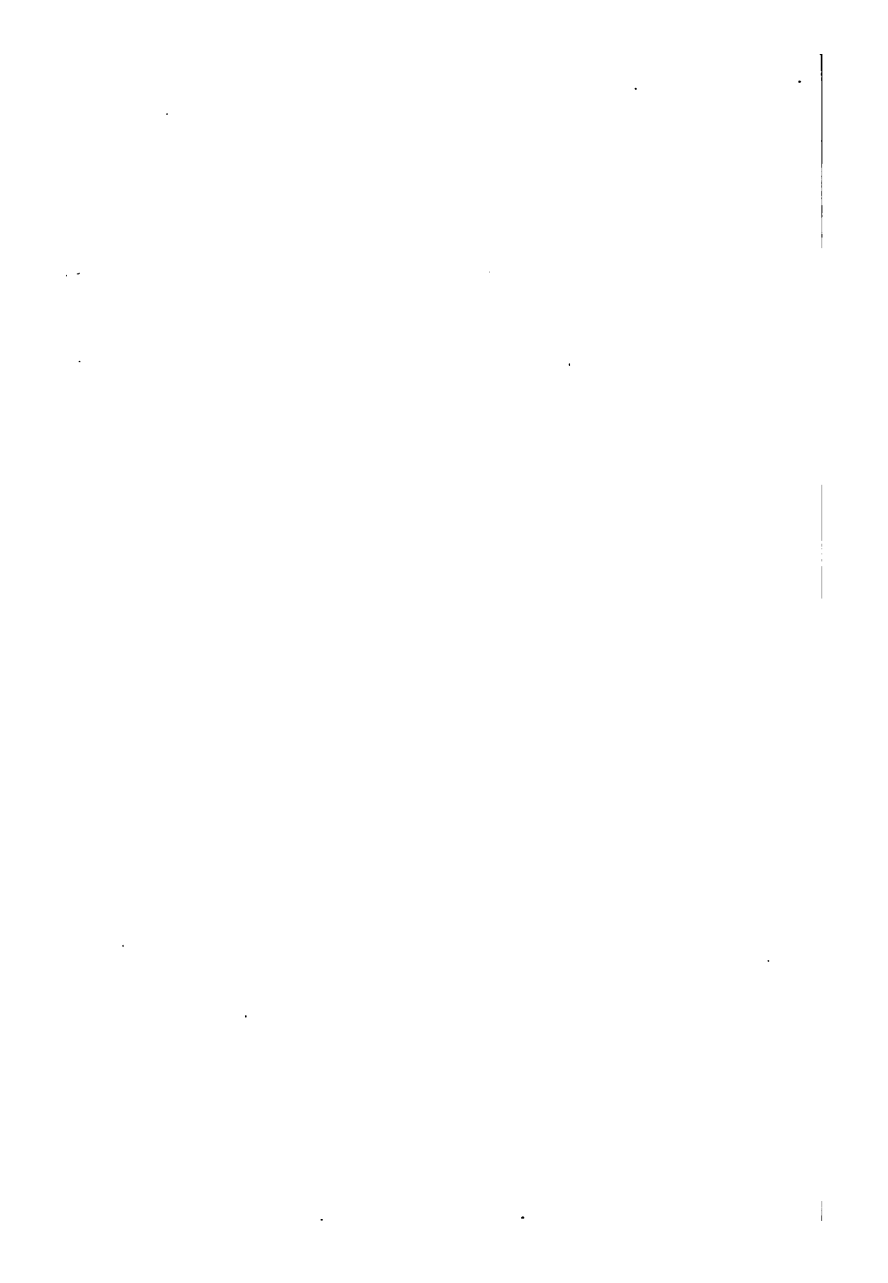


OXONII:

T. ET G. SHRIMPTON.

M DCCC LVI.

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## MORS SOCRATIS.

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PURPUREA occidui suffusum luce diei  
Fulget adhuc niveis adverso sole columnis  
Culmen Athenarum, quamquam crescentibus umbris  
Thriasius caligat ager, longèque recedunt  
Matris Eleusinæ, primo jam vespere, clivi.  
Urbs et adhuc festas agitat de more choreas,  
Stipatæque viæ resonant, Piræaque latè  
Mœnia : solenni lauro redimita, propinquat  
Sacra cohors, tacitisque iterum requievit in undis,  
Quæ ratis Ægæi spumas salis ære ruebat,  
Placatum referens à Deli littore Phœbum.

At prius Hesperium tua quam pineta, Cithæron,  
Abdiderint solem, lethali extincta veneno



Sancta anima exierit, totièsque audita monentis  
 Cessârît vox dia viri. Tum flere juvabit  
 Absentem, tantumque nefas, ni fata resistant  
 Abluere, atque æri seros committere luctus<sup>a</sup>.  
 —Non ita pacantur Manes; nec fœdere tali  
 Torpentes repetit venas, vacuumque cadaver  
 Spiritus. Hic olim prostratæ forte columnæ  
 Innixus, famæque tuens monumenta vetustæ,  
 Servitio assuetum vulgus, mutataque corda,  
 (Proh pudor!) et formosam ipsâ sub imagine mortis  
 Advena Palladium lugebit barbarus urbem.  
 Tum fortasse animo,—memor ut præsentia gaudet  
 Præteritis miscere et rerum innectere causas,—  
 Præsagæ voces, et sors infanda subibit  
 Socratis: occurret quâ fronte minantia quondam  
 Ora tyrannorum<sup>b</sup>, populumque indigna jubentem<sup>c</sup>,  
 Justitiæ immotus vindex spectârît; et idem,

<sup>a</sup> Ἀθηναῖοι εὐθὺς μετέγνωσαν . . . καὶ Σωκράτη χαλκῆς εἰκόνης ἐτιμήσαντο, ἣν ἔθεσαν ἐν τῇ πομπῇ, Δυσίππου ταύτην ἐργασαμένου.—Diog. Laert., ii. 43.

<sup>b</sup> Plat. Apol., § 20. ed. Bekker.

<sup>c</sup> Ibid.

Quum contra fremeret levis inconstantia vulgi,  
 Iudicibus steterit coram inconcussus iniquis.

Heu! cæcas hominum mentes; et nescia fati  
 Pectora! non fuerit tanti incidisse senilis  
 Tam breve filum ævi<sup>d</sup>, et canos violâsse capillos!  
 Scilicet hic vir hic est quem vox sanctissima Phœbi<sup>e</sup>  
 Ante omnes sapere, et magnum decus esse canebat  
 Hellados;—hic veri custos, rigidusque satelles  
 Virtutis; qui non populi inclarescere famâ,  
 Non placidos agitare dies, non lumina solis  
 Aspicere, et dulces tanti pendebat amicos,  
 Quam recti servâsse viam. Nec divite venâ  
 Deficit ingenium, et facundæ gratia linguæ.  
 Quam veriti, lucro si cui mendacia, si quis  
 Virtutem vitio confundere, candida nigris,  
 Novisset; quippe his, avidis certaminis, aurem  
 Ille dabat docilem primum, ignarosque trahebat,

<sup>d</sup> Plat. Apol., § 29: οὐ πολλοῦ γ' ἔνεκα χρόνου, κ.τ.λ.

<sup>e</sup> Ibid., § 5.

Cedendo victor, donec, ridente coronâ,  
 “Falleret indeprensus et irremeabilis error<sup>f</sup>.”

Princeps ille tuam fertur, Sapientia, cœlo  
 Lampada deduxisse<sup>g</sup>, ipsisque in mœnibus urbis,  
 Inque foro, sanctosque inter posuisse Penates :  
 Ut neque defessos fumosa ad limina noctu  
 Qui referunt artus, neque queis regalia lucent  
 Atria, te careant, et quæ bona munera præbes,  
 Moribus innocuis, animique æstate sereni.

Ille tamen vulgò Divûm contemptor, et audit  
 Impius ; insueto quia vult accedere cultu  
 Numina : non stupris Venerem, non orgia Bacchi  
 Ebrius aggreditur ; didicit namque esse Deorum  
 Majorem nostrâ, atque magis virtutis amantem  
 Naturam ; hos igitur purgato pectore tantum,  
 Et prece sollicitâ, et factis veneratur honestis.

<sup>f</sup> “ἐκείνη ἡ εἰωθὺία Σωκράτους εἰσπρεΐα.” Cf. Plat. Pol. i. § 11, and vi. § 3.

<sup>g</sup> Cic. Tusc. Disp., v. 4 : “Socrates primus philosophiam devocavit de cœlo, et in urbibus collocavit, et in domos etiam introduxit, et coëgit de vita et moribus, rebusque bonis et malis quærere.”

Hi mores, hæc vita viro: his corrupta Juventus  
 Scilicet illecebris, patrios non temnere Divos,  
 Fastidire voluptates, vitæque pudorem  
 Discebat præferre, et veri exquirere fontes.  
 Inde graves irarum æstus, mistoque timore  
 Invidia; infensi cives; nimiâque molestum  
 Virtute, insontem letho dignantur Athenæ.

At quis tam cari capitis reverentia nescit  
 Mutari populi arbitrio, neque pellitur ipso  
 Carcere, conveniunt pauci; quis seria cordi  
 Colloquia, atque animus supra terrestria vectus.  
 En! madidas suffusa genas, cum prole tenellâ  
 Uxor adest<sup>h</sup>: illi, meliori sorte beati,  
 Suprema arripiunt ignaris oscula labris  
 Hùc quoque communi coëunt mærore gravati,  
 Quis decus æternum peperit divina Platonis  
 Pagina<sup>i</sup>; Thebarumque Cebes generosa propago;  
 Tuque, nimis rigidæ caput haud ignobile sectæ<sup>k</sup>;

<sup>h</sup> Plat. Phæd., §§ 9 and 149.

<sup>i</sup> Ibid., § 6.

<sup>k</sup> Antisthenes.

Hermogenes, Phædoque ; atque ille<sup>1</sup> immitia vulgi  
 Qui placita, instantemque necem contempsit, amati  
 Si biberet vocem, et penderet ab ore, magistri.  
 Quam velit et parvæ comitem sese addere turbæ,  
 Qui procul infaustis Asiæ jam militat oris,  
 Nescius heu ! rerum, intrepidi Xenophontis<sup>m</sup> amœna  
 Simplicitas !—Illis saltem (solatia luctus  
 Exigua ingentis) licitum est haurire parentis  
 Jam prope divinas extrema morte loquelas.  
 Quale melos læto fundit de gutture cygnus,  
 Et vitam Eurotæ patriis non invidet undis<sup>n</sup>.

Ah verè miseranda manus ! quos aurea nunquam  
 Consilia, et vitæ posthac præcepta beatæ  
 In medio clamore fori, seu margine dulcis  
 Ilissi, allicient :—vacat omni numine campus,—

<sup>1</sup> Euclid of Megara.

<sup>m</sup> Xenophon had set out on his Asiatic expedition a year before Socrates' death. Diog. Laert., ii. 55.

<sup>n</sup> Plat. Phæd., § 77 : οἱ κύκνοι, ἐπειδὴν αἰσθῶνται ὅτι δεῖ αὐτοὺς ἀποθανεῖν, . . . τότε δὴ πλεῖστα καὶ μάλιστα ᾄδουσι, γεγηθότες, κ.τ.λ.

Urbs vacat ;—hinc vidui ° patet illætabilis ævi  
Semita, et incerto titubantes lumine gressus.

Verum, qualis ubi ventis exæstuat æquor,  
Densiùs et citiùsque nigræ trans æthera noctis  
Abruptæ volitant nubes, si rima dehiscat  
Exigua, apparet facies argentea Lunæ,  
Purpureumque procul cœlum, sedesque serenæ ;  
Haud alitèr, flentes inter, fons ipse doloris,  
Sublimi Sapiens vultu, similisque beato  
Conspicitur ; cuique auxilium, solatia cuique  
Sufficiens ; vanosque metus, et inepta suorum  
Somnia dispellit fando, insolitamque quietem  
Mentibus inspirat, miscens jucunda severis.  
Nunc amat incompto fabellas ludere versu,  
Musarum serus cultor <sup>p</sup> ; nunc prompta Critonis <sup>q</sup>  
Officia, oblatamque fugam meminisse recusat,

• Ibid., § 149 : ἡγούμενοι ὥσπερ πατρὸς στερηθέντες διάξειν ὄρφανοι τὸν ἑπείτα βίον.

<sup>p</sup> Plat. Phæd., §§ 11, 12.

<sup>q</sup> Plat. Crito, passim.

Certus cuncta pati; nec festinare paratus

Ipse sibi mortem, nec detrectare propinquam.

“ Me patria, O dilecti (inquit) producere vitam

“ Amplius, et legum vetat inviolata potestas;

“ Me vetat ipse Deus:—per somnum oblata jacenti

“ Pulchrior humanâ species me visa vocare

“ Nec dubiam monstrare viam<sup>1</sup>.—Si lumine cassos<sup>2</sup>

“ Nox æterna habeat, nec quid nisi corpora simus,

“ At juvat hinc ire, et miti committere nocti

“ Membra ævo tremula, et seras ad fortia vires.

“ Sed mihi nescio quæ, divinitus insita, mentem

“ Spes alit, ætheriam nobis, et morte carentem

“ Ingenuisse Deos animam, quam continet arctus

“ Carcer adhuc, infirmi artus, moribundaque membra,

“ Squalentque ambrosiæ terrenis sordibus alæ.

“ Nonne videtis uti novitas ea florea veris

<sup>1</sup> Plat. Crito, § 2: ἐδόκει τίς μοι γυνή προσελθοῦσα καλὴ καὶ εὐειδὴς . . . καλέσαι με, καὶ εἰπεῖν Ὁ Σωκράτης, ἡματί κεν τριτάτῃ Φθίην ἐρίβωλον ἴκοιο.

<sup>2</sup> Plat. Apol., § 32: Δανοῖν γὰρ θάτερόν ἐστι τὸ τεθνάναι, κ.τ.λ.

- “ Hibernas trumat glacies ; noctemque soporam  
 “ Dissipet alma dies, nocti cessura vicissim ?  
 “ Sic mutat natura vices ; sic ordine viva  
 “ Mortem obeunt certo, reparantque jacentia vitam :  
 “ Sic rota perpetuum torquet revolubilis orbem <sup>t</sup>.

- “ Inde fit ut veterum subeant vestigia rerum <sup>u</sup>,  
 “ Rara quidem ; seu sollicitent insomnia mentem,  
 “ Sive foris, vitæve inter privata diurnæ  
 “ Munia, notâ aliquid perstringat imagine sensus.  
 “ Novimus hinc formas rerum, vitæque priori  
 “ Post longo fruimur, duplicique senescimus ævo.  
 “ Forsan et hos olim caros, visa aurea, vultus  
 “ Me sorti subjectum alii meminisse juvabit,  
 “ Et veterem accendent ignem, leve nomen, Athenæ.

- “ Nec tamen, ut perhibent, nullo discrimine, sedes,  
 “ Nec sine sorte, animis dantur :—sua præmia virtus  
 “ Expectet, facilesque Deos :—ea sola severum

<sup>t</sup> Plat. Phæd., § 45.

<sup>u</sup> Ibid., § 47 : Ἀνάμνησις.



" Concilium emollit: posito non flectitur auro  
 " Æacus, aut partes Minos tutatur iniquas<sup>v</sup>.  
 " Heu! male Cocyti pigris innabitur undis,  
 " Si quos terribili scelerum mens conscia morsu  
 " Torqueat; hos Furis ultrices, et dura sub umbris  
 " Vincla manent; proprio solvendæ sanguine culpæ.  
 " Sunt queis, labem animis ubi longa exemerit ætas,  
 " Vitam instaurare, et superas evadere ad auras  
 " Dat Lachesis; quorum vero insanabile pænis  
 " Ingenium, immani submergunt ima barathro  
 " Tartara; non reditus, non spes datur ulla salutis;  
 " Incubat horrisonis nox intempesta tenebris.

" At procul Elysia æternis in collibus arces  
 " Sidereis rutilæ gemmis, et iaspide fulva<sup>x</sup>,  
 " Aëra trans crassum, puroque sub ætheris axe<sup>y</sup>,  
 " Exsurgunt: illas roseâ sol luce coronat  
 " Largior: irrorat nocturnos largior orbe

<sup>v</sup> Plat. Apol., § 32.

<sup>x</sup> Plat. Phæd., § 136.

<sup>y</sup> Ibid.: ὁ ἡμῶν ὁ ἀνὴρ ἐκείνους τὸν αἰθέρα.

“ Luna agros :—illic quorum simulacra caducâ  
 “ Mortales nostros frustrantur imagine sensus,  
 “ Omnia vera adeo superis nascuntur in oris.  
 “ Illic vera Boni species, et gratia Formæ,  
 “ Et Pietas viget, et vitæ sincera voluptas.  
 “ Quin ibi religio major delubra Deorum  
 “ Consecrat ; illa tenent, fictis exuta figuris<sup>a</sup>,  
 “ Numina ; cœlestes manifestâ cernere formas  
 “ Luce datur, verasque audire et reddere voces.

“ Felices animæ ! quas fortunata piorum  
 “ Concilia accipient : quas aut diviniore auræ  
 “ Particula, aut ardens evexit ad æthera virtus.  
 “ Quippe ibi crediderim tranquillæ iterare senectæ  
 “ Delicias Sophoclem<sup>a</sup>, repetentem dulce cothurni  
 “ Munus, et Electræ lacrymas :—ibi carmine molli  
 “ Deceptas, Orpheus<sup>b</sup> magicâ trahit arte catervas.

<sup>a</sup> Plat. Phæd., § 138 : καὶ δὴ θεῶν ἔδη τε καὶ ἱερά αὐτοῖς εἶναι, ἐν οἷς τῷ ὄντι οἰκητὰς θεοὺς εἶναι.

<sup>a</sup> Plat. Pol., § 3.

<sup>b</sup> Plat. Apol., § 32 : ἐπὶ πόσῃ ἂν τις δέξαιτο ὑμῶν Ὀρφεὶ συγγενέσθαι καὶ Μουσαίῳ καὶ Ὀμήρῳ.

“ Musæusque sacro reteggit mysteria versu.

“ Quis non Mæoniden semel audivisse canentem

“ Hâc vitâ bene credat emi ? quis cernere Atridas,

“ Pelidamque, et cum Priamo posse Hectora tandem

“ Morte obitâ junctum, et captæ miserescere Trojæ ?

“ Quippe etenim et nobis, (ni spes me fallat) amici,

“ Si casti fuerint mores, si vivida virtus,

“ Corporeas simul ac laxârint fata catenas,

“ Aureæ pendentur portæ, vitreique patebunt

“ Secessus : pratis redolentibus ire licebit,

“ Heroumque choris, mensisque adsistere Divum.

“ Me postrema dies, atque indulgentia fati

“ Optata excepit :—vos portu distinctet æquor

“ Exiguum, fluctusque obstant :—at certa serenat°

“ Spes iter, ingentemque offert victoria laudem.

“ Impiger idcirco labor impendendus, ut omni

“ Culpæ labe carens, studiisque erecta severis,

° Plat. Phæd., § 145 : καλὸν τὸ δῶλον καὶ ἡ ἐλπίς μεγάλη.

“ Cælicolum puris jam nunc assuescere discat  
 “ Legibus, et proprios anima affectare triumphos.”

— Dixerat :—at croceis dudum juga summa recedens  
 Sol incendebat radiis, noctemque trahebat.  
 Nec mora ; namque aderat funestæ nuncius horæ,  
 (Ille quidem tristi,—Virtus ita ferrea mollit  
 Corda,—ministerio illacrymans <sup>d</sup>) et dira ferebat  
 Pocula. Tunc animi conversi ; oblita magistri  
 Consilia ;—erumpunt lacrymæ ; missoque pudore,  
 Discipuli lugent, atque atria longa resultant.  
 Tu vero, venerande senex, ceu grata Lyæi  
 Dona, venenatos latices, mistamque cicutam  
 Accipis :—immotus lentâ frigescere sentis  
 Tabe artus, nervosque ægros, venasque rigentes,  
 Et vaga Lethæo torpescere lumina somno.  
 Corporeæ sedenim mortis securus, amatum  
 Elysium spectas, spe jam propiore triumphans,  
 Dulciaque æternæ prælibas gaudia vitæ.

<sup>d</sup> Plat. Phæd., § 150.

Ceu qui permensus vastum mare, littora terræ  
Mane novo, obscurosque maligno lumine colles  
Prospicit, optatum læto clamore salutat  
Hospitium, et pleno demum petit ostia velo.





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